



12 Margaretta Street
East Bentleigh 3165
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This office is located on the land of the Boonerwung people of the Kulin nation.

What's News

TERM 1 ISSUE 4

WEDNESDAY
27TH MARCH 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

Tuesday 2nd

EEP Parent Information
Session (9:30am)

Autism Awareness Day

Thursday 4th

Post School Options Expo

Friday 5th

Last Day Term One

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Saturday 6th April — Monday
22nd April

Tuesday 23rd

First Day Term Two

Thursday 25th

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

MAY

Monday 6th—Friday 10th

SSG Meetings

Monday 13th

Student Free Day

Wednesday 22nd

School Council Meeting

JUNE

Monday 10th

Queen's Birthday Holiday

Friday 28th

Last Day Term Two



Principal's Report

With Term One coming to a close, there are many positives to reflect on. Students have settled in well, our new portables were occupied much earlier this year and our Specialist program was expanded with additional PE, Music and Media Arts. In addition we introduced the new style Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) which take into account our ongoing development around the Victorian Curriculum. As well as the new ILP structure, the staff have been working hard on the implementation of the SWPBS framework of embedding the teaching of positive behaviours across the school.

SAS Family Day

We had over 400 attending our Family Day here at SAS on Sunday 17th March, making use of the jumping castles, silent disco, face painting, train rides, pet farm and food & drinks. We were very lucky with the weather and it was an enjoyable day. A big thank you to Cheltenham Rotary for running the BBQ free of charge, the Leighton family for donating the coffee truck and the Guler family for donating all the fruit. This day would not have been possible without all the hard work of the fundraising committee. We are hoping to include this as a regular activity on the SAS calendar.

Annual Implementation Plan and School Review

Our 2019 AIP is well underway as the school pursues the targets across Curriculum, Assessment & SWPBS. We also have our four-year school review this year and are presently starting our self-evaluation. Our four day review is scheduled for the end of next term.

It is pleasing when I hear the community is becoming more aware of the needs of young people with Autism. Over the last year, we have been working closely with the Southland Shopping Centre around supporting our students. I came across this article on the St Kilda FC and their Sensory Room at Marvel stadium.

<http://www.amaze.org.au/2019/01/with-amazes-support-st-kilda-fc-and-marvel-stadium-open-sensory-room/>

As a school, we will continue to advocate for improved services for our community.

Bruce McPhate
Principal

"Wrap and Chat!"

Please join our parents every Friday at 9.15am for a good dose of laughter and to help cover books in the Staff Room.



FAMILY DAY SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2019

PHOTOS REMOVED FOR PRIVACY REASONS



Assistant Principal News

It is incredible to believe that we are nearly in April! It is a great time to reflect on the extensive work happening at school including reviewing of policies, teams working on curriculum units and assessment, staff working with other schools to develop extensive assessment tools, the building project, ongoing professional development with STAR/Links, behaviour and the Positive Behaviour Support framework, child safety in addition to the most rewarding part of our job, providing quality teaching and learning for our children.

The whole school community is of utmost importance and personifies what SAS is all about. It was terrific to see so many parents and carers at the recent afternoon tea, parents attending the mindfulness sessions and the fabulous Family Fun Day! It was absolutely priceless to see so many families having such a great time. The feedback has been fabulous and warmly welcomed! Certainly a day to put in our calendar for next year (once a date has been set).

Child Safety

We have reviewed the Child Safety Reporting and procedures policy and reviewed our Code of Conduct. These were presented to School Council and are available on the School Website. We are always reviewing and looking at ways to keep our children safe through professional development, communicating with the community and reviewing procedures and processes.

Pedestrian Safety

We continue to grow and car parking is often challenging. It is also difficult when the buses arrive and children are entering through the top car park. Road safety is a fundamental and sometimes difficult set of skills for some children to learn. We are currently trying to divert pedestrians entering from the Margaretta Street end through the small gate, rather than the gate the vehicles use. The school is looking at how we can help keep students safe, whether it be by painting feet to show a path and ensuring no cars are parked in front of the gate. More to follow on this.

Occupational Health & Safety

We have a small but hardworking team on the OHS Committee. Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you notice anything unsafe or that could be a potential hazard, please let the school know.

EEP Information Session

Our Early Education Parents are invited to attend an information session about entry to into the SAS school-age program. This will be held on Tuesday 2nd April at 9:30am.

Julia Sadler

Assistant Principal

PHOTOS REMOVED FOR PRIVACY REASONS



EEP and Junior School News

It was wonderful to see the great turn out of Junior School parents and children at our recent family day. I was delighted to see the children having so much fun participating in the full range of the activities at the event. It was also a great opportunity for me to chat with families. Likewise, we had a fabulous turnout at our recent Junior and Lower School afternoon tea. We aim to have our next parent social gathering early in Term 2 and will send out invitations closer to the date.

Our school-aged students start their school day at 8.50am and finish at 2.50pm. We appreciate parents collecting children on time as staff frequently have meetings to attend immediately after students leave. Children can also become distressed when they need to wait for long periods at the parent pick up area after their school day.

This semester four classes in the Junior School school-age program attend weekly swimming sessions at school. The program is supported by a swimming instructor as well as the class teacher and ES. Students have settled into the routine of transitioning to the pool and dressing in the change rooms. The children show great enjoyment engaging in water play activities and learn about water safety, including how to safely enter the pool. The classes will run for one semester and at the beginning of Term 3 the other four Junior School classes will be scheduled.

Kirsten Schmidt
Junior School Leader

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Lower School News

What a wonderful day we had for our SAS Family Fun Day! A huge thank you to the organisers for putting on such an entertaining and well-organised event. It was wonderful to see so many families from Lower School attending, and I hope you were able to have some time to chat to other families and share ideas as well as participating in all the events. Group 3.04 certainly had a great time the following day using all the balloons during their gym time!

PHOTOS REMOVED FOR PRIVACY REASONS

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The weeks are going quickly, with lots of exciting and interesting things happening in our classrooms. In 3.09, their 'Station of the Week' has been the orange station. The students have been using many different sensory materials to construct paper murals. Each student worked independently on a different scene: Paige made a garden scene and Thorn created a rainbow scene. The group worked well together sharing space and equipment appropriately.

The students in 3.12 have been exploring the local community with weekly visits to King George Memorial Reserve. They have been working on the STAR lesson Walk with me, learning road safety rules for crossing the road and sharing the playground and PE equipment. As you can see from the photos, everyone has been having a wonderful time!

PHOTOS REMOVED FOR PRIVACY REASONS

Kerri Harkness
Lower School Leader



Upper School News

Upper school is fortunate to have a Recreation room which contains six computers and a big screen. The big screen can be used for whole group demonstrations before students do independent work on the computer. Sometimes the big screen is used to play Wii games and Xbox games.

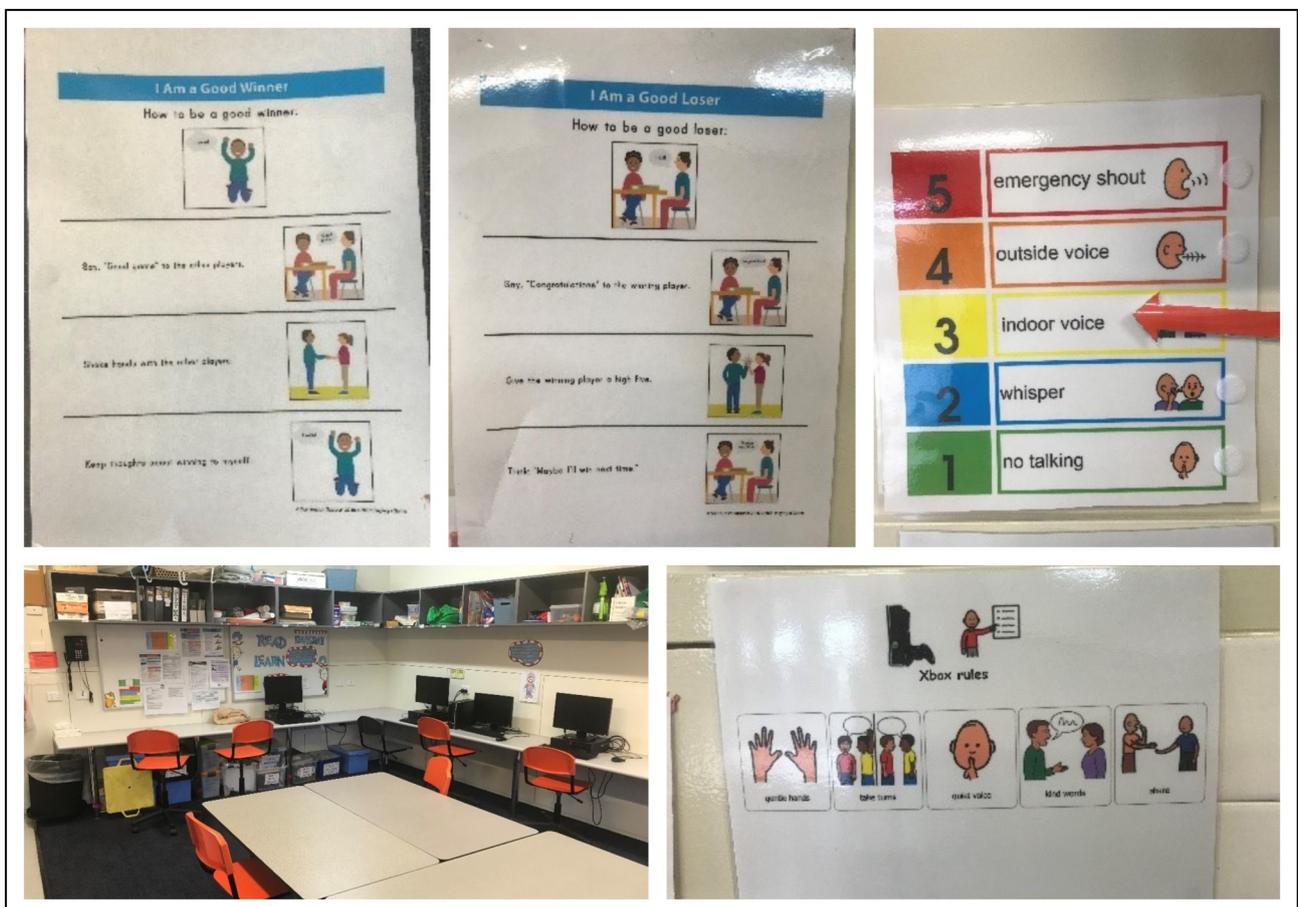
The REC room is a highly motivating area for most of the students in Upper School. We use this time to teach and practise skills like:

- Taking turns
- Using appropriate language and tone of voice
- Accepting when you lose
- Encouraging peers when they struggle
- Congratulating peers when they win
- ICT skills for example making a Power Point
- Transitioning to a different part of the school.

YouTube is not available to students, but can be accessed by teachers for teaching purposes.

The trampoline is used for movement breaks, break time, teaching waiting and as part of the PE program.

Denise Van Der Nest
Upper School Leader





Senior School News

Camp

5.02 had a wonderful overnight camp at Blackwood this year. The students once again enjoyed the activities on offer and the opportunity to hang out with their teachers and classmates.

Cindy Longley
Senior School Leader

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Thursday 4th April 6-8 pm



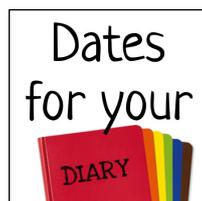
Plus more confirming daily!

PHOTOS REMOVED FOR PRIVACY REASONS

For many of the students in 5.07, not only was this their first camp, it was also their first time away from home! It's always lovely to see Blackwood camp through fresh eyes. These guys were so excited about everything and I was lucky enough to stay overnight with this group. I learnt that there is always room for one more slice of pizza, damper cooked on the campfire tastes great with Nutella, when a teacher is blind folded and led by students, they should be reminded to tell the teacher about upcoming obstacles before she reaches them, feathers look really pretty through a microscope and zombies really do live at Blackwood cemetery! I can't say that there is factual evidence to prove all of this but, I was assured by those who know that it is the absolute truth.



Congratulations to room 5.06 who raised \$187.15 for the leukaemia Foundation with their crazy hair day!



March

28 Harmony Day Assembly

April

1 5.04 Sailing (change of class)

2 5.03 Sailing (change of class)

4 EXPO 6—8 pm

Southern Autistic School

School Wide Positive Behaviour

Promoting wellbeing at school can substantially improve social and emotional outcomes of young people. School-wide positive behaviour support (SWPBS) is a Department of Education and Training whole-school framework that provides school professionals with an approach to promote improved behaviour at their school.

SWPBS has been developed from evidence and data, demonstrating the most effective ways to prevent and respond to problem behaviour at school. Research has shown that SWPBS is successful in reducing problem behaviour, improving school culture, and increasing academic performance.

At Southern Autistic School, the staff embarked on the SWPBS journey during 2018 as part of the school's Annual Implementation Plan. The school was successful in our application to join the SWPBS initiative and a team of staff members across all areas of the school was formed to drive the initiative in school – a working group. An 80% buy-in from staff was required i.e. at least 80% of staff had to agree to implement SWPBS, which was achieved at the start of 2019.

So far, the working group have worked with the whole staff at two curriculum days this year, as well as presenting at various staff meetings. The focus this term has been to establish the core values for our school, which aligns with our school vision: to develop life long learners who have a sense of belonging and are encouraged to implement their skills and knowledge to make choices and accept responsibility for their decisions.

Our three values are:

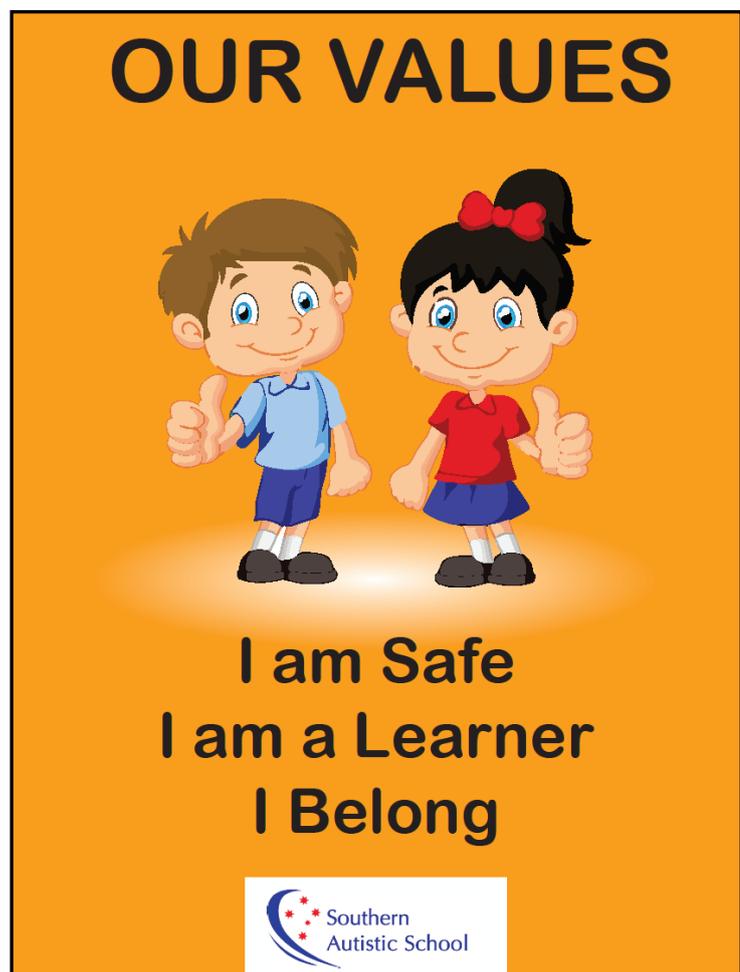
I am safe

I am a learner

I belong

Our school philosophy policy encompasses our vision and values using the SWPBS framework. We will continue to develop and improve our positive approach to supporting student behaviour at Southern Autistic School.

An important part of this process is for our school to work with the wider community, including our parents and carers. Early next term, we will organise an information session to provide more details about our SWPBS framework at SAS.



This report provides an overview of points of interest for the school community.

SAS Family Day – Sunday 17th March

The Family Day was a tremendous success with over 400 people attending. We had jumping castles, silent disco, face painting, train rides, pet farm and food and drinks. A big thank you to Cheltenham Rotary for running the BBQ free of charge and the Leighton family for their coffee truck. We would also like to acknowledge Cheltenham Rotary for donating the jumping castle and popcorn as well as the sausages.

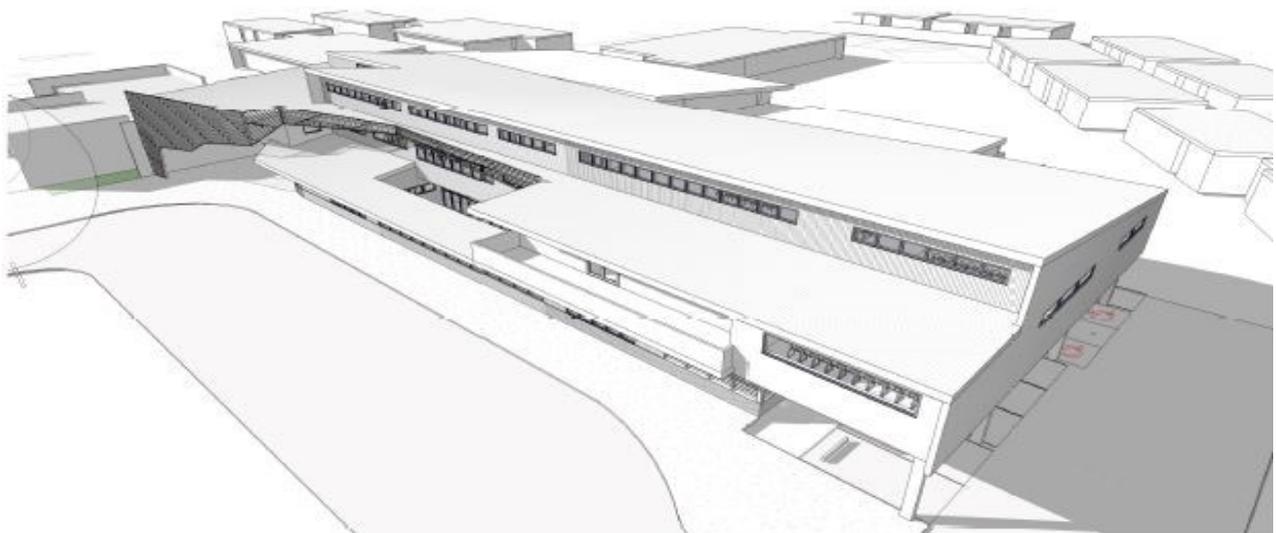
This day would not have been possible without all the hard work of the Fundraising Committee and we will definitely be planning another event like this again.

Facility Improvements

The SAS masterplan design plans for three stages of development on our existing site. It is based on a school-aged enrolment of 300 students (a 20% growth on 2019 SAS enrolments).

Hede Architects is working with school representatives, DET region and the Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA) to produce a schematic design of the first stage of development. With space constraints in mind, stage one aims to provide more facilities by constructing a new double storey building in the existing staff carpark (in front of the existing gymnasium and swimming pool).

Unfortunately, we will lose the majority of our staff parking but our students will gain six new purpose built learning spaces on the ground floor and our parents will have a dedicated parent meeting room. The current staffroom, staff work areas, Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy team and some staff offices will relocate to the top storey. The philosophy is to retain student learning at ground level wherever possible.



3D View – Aerial North as at 22.03.19

We would like to encourage parents to contact Bruce McPhate or Rochelle Pettit (School Council President) this term if you would like more information or to provide input into this planning process.

Child Safety and Wellbeing

School Council discuss Child Safety and Wellbeing at every School Council meeting. At this meeting, Julia Sadler (Assistant Principal) presented "Child Safe Standards" slide presentation.

The seven child safe standards are:

Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety

Standard 2: A child safety policy or a statement of commitment to child safety

Standard 3: Developing a child safety code of conduct – includes a code of conduct for visitors

Standard 4: Screening, Supervision, training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse

Standard 5: Procedures for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

Standard 7: Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

Annual Implementation Plan

Our AIP is well underway as the school pursues the targets across Curriculum, Assessment & SWPBS.

We also have our four-year school review this year and are presently starting our self-evaluation. We have our four-day review near the end of next term. Our Reviewer is Peter Fotheringham, a very experienced Reviewer.

Fundraising

Fundraising meeting held on 13/3/19.

Plans for 2019:

April – 2/4 Autism Awareness Day

May – 9/5 Mothers' Day stall

June – Bunnings BBQ (now confirmed 1/6)

July – Trivia Night now 27/7 (note date moved from 25/5)

August – 29/8 Fathers' Day stall

September – 7/9 SAS Birthday party at SuperZu

November – Annual raffle with mid-Dec draw

Please email southern.autistic.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au if you have any feedback on this report or call Bruce on 9563 8139 if you would like a copy of the School Council minutes.

Next School Council meeting: Wednesday 22nd May @ 7.00pm



Autism Awareness Day, Tuesday 2nd April

To celebrate Autism Awareness Day, this year the colour will be red. Students are welcome to dress in their favourite red clothes. There will be face painting, balloons, hair spray, jelly and lots of fun activities.



COMPASS PARENT PORTAL NEWS

Thank you to our parent / carer community for supporting our full rollover to the Compass Parent Portal. The Portal has proved to be invaluable in communicating with our parents / carers and we will continue to add more modules to this service.

Parents / carers now have the ability to email teachers directly and excursion notices and approvals are now accessed through the Portal. In addition the SSG meeting bookings will be via the online Compass Portal commencing Term 2, 2019. This will be posted in the first week of Term 2.

Recording Absences

A reminder to please submit your child's absence via the Portal. When submitting your child's absence you will notice that there is an area to put comments, please note these comments are not sent to the teacher. Therefore we request any important comments in regards to your child's absence be emailed directly to the teacher or a note put into the communication book.

The screenshot shows the 'Attendance Note Editor' interface. It includes a 'Note Details' section with fields for 'Person', 'Reason' (a dropdown menu with 'Enter a reason...' selected), and 'Details/Comment' (a large text area). Below this is an 'Options' section with a checkbox for 'Department Approved/VCE Compliant'. At the bottom, there are 'Start' and 'Finish' fields, each with a date (20/03/2019), a time (08:00 AM and 05:00 PM respectively), and a 'Select a period...' dropdown menu. An 'Audit' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

RITCHIES

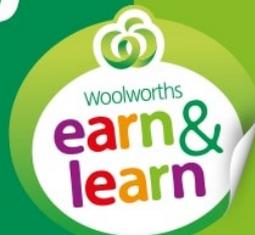
Where the Community Benefits

When shopping at Ritchies and by using a community benefit card linked to Southern Autistic School then Ritchies will donate money back to our school

These cards can be used at ANY Ritchies IGA store, supermarket or liquor throughout Vic, NSW and Qld by any of our staff and families of the children.

If you would like to support Ritchies and you don't already have a CB card please collect one at the registers next time you shop at **ANY Ritchies** store to use every time you shop. All you do is nominate Southern Autistic School, It's that easy! Spread the word to shop at Ritchies and we hope to see a few more Ritchies shoppers and more money donated back to our school!

**Get ready
for Earn
& Learn**



**Stay tuned—
starting
1st May to
25th June**